

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE: N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

TERMS: Cash in advance. Money sent by mail will be at the risk of the sender. None but bank bills current in New York taken.

THE DAILY HERALD, THREE CENTS PER COPY.

THE WEEKLY HERALD, every Saturday, at FIVE CENTS PER COPY. Annual subscription price—

One Copy..... 5

Five Copies..... 25

Ten Copies..... 50

Any larger number, addressed to names of subscribers, \$1.50 each. An extra copy will be sent to every club of ten. Twenty copies, to one address, one year, \$3.50, and any larger number at same price. An extra copy will be sent to clubs of twenty. These rates make the WEEKLY HERALD the cheapest publication in the country.

The EUROPEAN EDITION, every Wednesday, at FIVE CENTS PER COPY; \$4 per annum to any part of Great Britain, or \$6 to any part of the Continent, both to include postage.

The CALIFORNIA EDITION, on the 1st, 11th and 21st of each month, at SIX CENTS PER COPY, or \$3 per annum.

ADVERTISEMENTS, to a limited number, will be inserted in the WEEKLY HERALD, and in the European and California Editions.

VOLUNTARY CORRESPONDENCE, containing important news, solicited from any quarter of the world; if used, will be liberally paid for. OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ARE PARTICULARLY REQUESTED TO SEAL ALL LETTERS AND PACKAGES SENT US.

NO NOTICE taken of anonymous correspondence. We do not return rejected communications.

Volume XXVIII.....No. 55

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIRLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—SATANELLA.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—PAULINE.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—NELL GWYNNE.

LAURA KENNE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—REGULAR FIVE FAIR ONE WITH THE GOLDEN LEGS.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—EDGEWORTH BESS—GLENN—MARRIED YESTERDAY.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—MAGNETS—WIZARD STAFF.

GERMAN OPERA HOUSE, No. 435 Broadway.—FIDELIO.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—MUSICAL WARREN, COM. NITT. LIVING HIPPOCAMPUS, &c., at all hours.—RAIOL—Afternoon and Evening.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS' Mechanical Hall, 472 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, BURLESQUES, DANCES, &c.—BLACK BIRCHES.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 514 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.—JAMBALE.

DODWORTH'S HALL, No. 306 Broadway.—GRAND CONCERT BY ANTONIO PARAVALLI.

BROADWAY MENAGERIE, Broadway.—LIVING WILD ANIMALS—PERFORMING ELEPHANTS—COMIC MULES, &c.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 444 Broadway.—BALLETS, FANTOMAS, BURLESQUES, &c.

PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway.—Open daily from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.

BOULEVARD OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.

New York, Wednesday, February 25, 1863.

THE SITUATION.

The most important news from the Southwest to-day is the reported capture of the Union man Queen of the West, whose gallant exploits in running the blockade at Vicksburg are already known to our readers. She is said to have been captured under Fort Taylor, at Gordon's Landing, on the Red river—the pilot, who was taken off the rebel steamer Eva, having treacherously run her within range of the guns while asserting that the fort was fifteen miles away. Her steamship was knocked off, and she was otherwise so disabled that she drifted to the opposite shore, and all of the crew except thirteen escaped. The boat and the rest of the hands fell into the power of the rebels. The rebel official reports and the comments of the Southern journals upon the affair are published in another column.

Reports from Louisville yesterday described the invasion of Kentucky by the rebels as being of a very extensive and alarming character. They were said to be threatening Lexington, Frankfort, Danville and even Louisville itself. Gen. Longstreet was reported to be in command. These rumors, however, are denied by some of the Louisville journals. No facts concerning them have reached the headquarters of the Union army, and the latest despatches pronounce them absolutely false.

The rebel papers are compelled to admit that the story of breaking the blockade at Charleston was a gross exaggeration. The Weekly Enquirer, of Richmond, for example, says that "the Southern confederacy has lately been made the dupe of a notable imposture. It was said, printed, echoed and reverberated over the land that on a certain night two iron-clad vessels at Charleston had sunk two, disabled one and disposed of the rest of the blockading squadron off Charleston harbor. Now we learn with pain and certainty that no ship was sunk, none disabled and no damage, in short, was done to the blockading squadron, which, consisting of wooden ships only, avoided a fight with our iron-clads, and most judiciously, until they brought up iron-clads of their own, which they immediately did."

The story which reaches us from Europe relative to the presence of a rebel privateer scouring the waters of the Indian Ocean is manifestly a canard. It resolves itself into the simple fact, as related by the Calcutta Englishman, that the bark Selim, Captain Simpson, inward bound from Melbourne, saw off Keeling's Island, near the Straits of Sunda, to the southward of the equinoctial line, a large black man-of-war steamer lying to under three topsails, jib and spanker (no steam up, but funnel shot up as a telescope). When she sighted the Selim she bore away for her under all canvas, and when sufficiently near to make out the English flag rounded to again under small canvas, and showed what the captain of the Selim says has been described to him as, and which he had no doubt of being, the Confederate flag. This is about the entire story.

CONGRESS.

The Senate did not transact much business of general importance yesterday. A conference committee was appointed on the Naval Appropriation bill. The Indian Appropriation bill was discussed and amended, and laid aside until to-day. Ten thousand extra copies of the Currency bill were ordered to be printed. A bill was introduced authorizing the President in certain cases to take possession of steamboats and other vessels.

The House of Representatives was engaged in discussing the bill providing for calling out and arming the militia of the nation. It was agreed that a vote should be taken on the bill this afternoon. During the debate Mr. Stevens attacked General McClellan, and read a letter from General Scott accusing General McClellan of insubordination.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The very latest European news by the Canada and Nova Scotia, at Boston and Portland, is published in the HERALD this morning.

A letter from Cork, Ireland, of the 5th of February, speaking of the destitution existing in that city, says:—"To understand the extreme distress and condition of the poor down-trodden mechanic or householding class, it is necessary to go into the back lanes and alleys of the city, and into the dark and gloomy garrets, where scenes sufficient to awaken the coldest feelings of humanity may present themselves to the view. The question now is, can anything be done to relieve this pressing claim of our fellow creatures?" The Dublin Freeman's Journal of the 6th instant, reporting a visit to the homes of the working classes in the city, says:—"The prevailing sickness is the low fever that is always to be found in close attendance on extreme poverty. The sickness is terribly aggravated by want of beds and covering; and, if we had any doubt as to the incapacity of the charitable societies to grapple with the present destitution, our experience of yesterday would have removed it. Local organizations on an extensive scale are peremptorily demanded for the effective carrying out of relief."

The Paris Moniteur of the 7th of February says:—"A new bishop who leaves for Texas carries out with him forty-four missionaries and eight women devoted to religious and charitable acts."

The steamship City of Baltimore, which left here on the 24th ult., arrived at Liverpool on the 4th inst., after a passage of ten days and fifteen hours.

The act recently passed by Congress making appropriations for harbor fortifications allows the following amounts for the defenses of New York:—

For Fort Schuyler, East river, twenty-five thousand dollars.

For Fort at Willett's Point, opposite Fort Schuyler, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

For Fort on the site of Fort Tompkins, Staten Island, two hundred thousand dollars.

For casemated battery on Staten Island, two hundred thousand dollars.

For new battery near Fort Hamilton, one hundred thousand dollars.

For fort at Sandy Hook, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

The Fifty-fourth regiment of Massachusetts, which is Gov. Andrew's pet regiment of colored volunteers, is filling up very slowly. One full company has not yet been raised in Boston. In New Bedford forty men have enlisted, and in Pittsfield, under the drumming of a veritable contraband, fourteen recruits have been obtained. Great inducements are offered for colored men to enlist; but they "don't see it."

Since the 1st of August, 1861, one hundred and seventeen thousand soldiers have passed over the New Jersey Railroad, bound for the seat of war.

Col. S. A. Gilbert, who recently dispersed the secessionist State Convention at Frankfort, Kentucky, is a graduate of West Point, and belongs to the regular army. He is a native of Ohio, a resident of Zanesville, a nephew of Gen. Lewis Cass, and commands the Forty-fourth regiment of Ohio Volunteers.

The following named United States Senators from the rebel States are yet entitled to their seats:—

Term expires.

Clement C. Clay, Jr., Alabama.....1865

William K. Schuchman, Arkansas.....1865

Robert Tompkins, Georgia.....1865

J. B. Benjamin, Louisiana.....1865

Albert G. Brown, Mississippi.....1865

Thomas L. Clingman, North Carolina.....1867

Thomas Bragg, North Carolina.....1865

James Chestnut, South Carolina.....1865

A. O. P. Nicholson, Tennessee.....1865

R. M. T. Hunter, Virginia.....1865

The New York Young Men's Democratic Association held their ordinary weekly meeting at their rooms, at the corner of Broadway and Twenty-second street, last evening. The building was crowded in every part, and the proceedings were of an enlivening and hearty democratic character. Mr. Luke P. Cozans, the chairman, presided, and opened the meeting with appropriate remarks. Several speakers then addressed the audience on the rights and duties of the democracy. The principal orator of the evening was Mr. D. A. Mahoney, recently a prisoner in the Old Capitol Prison, Washington. The burden of his remarks concerned the faithlessness of the republicans to the duty they owe to the people; but there was nothing very new or striking in his remarks.

At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors yesterday, Supervisor Purdy gave notice that at the next meeting he would offer a resolution directing the Clerk to advertise for proposals for publishing the votes of the Mayor that may in future be sent to the Board in two papers of the largest circulation. The Committee on County Officers declined in favor of paying \$4,000 of the bill of \$18,085 charged by Sheriff Lynch for fees during the last quarter of 1862. The report was adopted. Adjourned till Monday at ten o'clock A. M.

The market for beef cattle was a shade firmer this week, and prices were a trifle higher, varying from 7c. to 10½c. A 1½c. The general selling prices were from 8½c. to 9½c., and the average price about 8½c. to 8¾c. Cows were quiet. Veals were steady at 5c. to 7c. Sheep and lambs were active at full prices, varying from \$4.50 to \$7.50 per head. Swine were also active at 4½c. a 5½c. for corn fed, and 4½c. a 5½c. for still fed. The total receipts were 6,091 head, 127 cows, 167 calves, 6,091 sheep and lambs, and 24,692 swine.

There was great excitement in gold yesterday; the price advanced 6 per cent, closing 17½ bid. Stocks also were better, the advance being from ¼ to 1½ per cent. United States sixes rose 1½ per cent. Exchange sold as high as 138, and most of the bankers asked 137 at the close. Money was easier, and was everywhere offered at six per cent.

There was decidedly more activity in general business yesterday, under the influence of the extraordinary advance in gold. Flour was 10c. a 2½c., wheat 2c. a 3c., and corn 2c. higher, with heavier sales. A more extensive business was reported in provisions; hog products were decidedly firmer. The grocery trade was brisker, especially in the line of tins, which were notably dearer. Cotton was quoted up to 9½c. a 9½c. for middling, but the market was quiet. The demand was more active for oils, metals, logwood, tallow and wool. The freight market was firmer, but engagements were quite moderate.

THE DEBATE IN THE FRENCH CHAMBERS ABOUT THE MEXICAN EXPEDITION.—M. Jules Favre and his eight opposition peers bid fair to give the Emperor Napoleon great trouble during the present legislative session in France. Mexico is their great gun, and they have already fired one shot from it with immense effect. They have moved that the soldiers of France be sent on no such dangerous foreign expedition, and assert that the whole affair is to the last degree unpopular in France. Now this is strictly true, as both the army and the people look with distrust upon the Mexican war, which brings no credit to the arms of France, but which, by disallowing alone, fruitfully swells the list of deaths. Here M. Favre and his adherents, the copperheads of France, have the Emperor Napoleon at a great disadvantage to his cause, and they will ring the changes upon the subject, as they are well aware that their speeches, which must be reported in full, will immensely agitate the people and lessen the power and influence of the Emperor. These debates may have a serious effect upon the external policy of Napoleon. We shall await their results with great interest.

A NEW PHASE OF THE GREEK QUESTION.—The Marquis de Mortemart, a member of the French Chambers, well known as a warm advocate of the Emperor's policy, has made a proposal to the Corps Legislatif which may greatly change the aspect of the Greek question. M. de Mortemart proposes that France should demand from Greece instant repayment of the sums she owes to France, and that in case of non-compliance, which the Marquis anticipates, Napoleon should exact from the Greeks a territorial guarantee. The honesty of this proposal, to say nothing of its generous character, needs no comment. We deem it on a par with the actions of France in Mexico, and should not be surprised to see Napoleon acting upon the suggestion, as Greece is now in trouble, and, as so much likely to emanate from him originally. England will be the obstacle in the accomplishment of this pleasant little scheme, and as she gave up the throne of Greece to avoid

The News from the West—The General Prospect of the War.

Louisville is again excited with rumors of another rebel invasion of Kentucky. From the various reports upon the subject, we infer that the central portions of the State are menaced by several advancing gangs of hungry rebel guerrillas from East Tennessee; but the report of the approach of Longstreet towards the Kentucky "Blue Grass district" and the city of Lexington, with an army of ten thousand men, would necessarily imply that these advancing rebel battalions are of that amphibious, "half horse, half alligator" breed of men peculiar to the swamps of Louisiana. We presume that the rough roads of Southern Kentucky are not now in a condition for the transportation of rebel artillery, and that when they will be we shall have some authentic news of active operations on the part of General Rosecrans in Tennessee. That mysterious and ubiquitous rebel chieftain General Longstreet is unquestionably an enterprising officer; but, whether really in Kentucky or Virginia just now, even he would find it extremely difficult to move an army where "the Yankees" would stick fast in the mud. Besides, our latest reports proclaim the whole story untrue.

The news, on the other hand, received by way of Richmond, of the capture by the rebels in the Red river of the ram Queen of the West, may be true. Like the gunboat Isaac P. Smith, lately captured in Stono Inlet, near Charleston, the Queen of the West may have poked her nose into a trap from which there was no escape. But still, as there are among the rebels numerous disciples of the Baron Munchausen, this report may have originated with one of them.

Of the actual progress of the war, East and West, we have had no information for several days, excepting that the bombardment of the rebel defenses at Vicksburg had commenced. The amount of digging required to render the "cut-off" available as a steamboat channel has probably exhausted the patience of General Grant. In any event the news is gratifying that he has commenced active operations. It breaks the monotony of this long delay in the commencement of the warlike work of the great campaign upon which the hopes of the country depend, and which, we are confident, will be crowned with decisive victories. We have full faith that the forces and the resources of General Grant and Admiral Porter will be found equal to the task assigned them; and we believe that in a regular and continuous bombardment they can reduce Vicksburg sooner than by tedious strategical experiments. The flooded condition of the Mississippi, while it offers unusual advantages for gunboat operations, involves a condition of the "sacred soil" along its shores decidedly unfavorable to operations by land. Admiral Porter must, therefore, clear away some of the rebel batteries in front, to give a foothold to the soldiers of General Grant, or the latter will probably have to fall back upon the difficult enterprise of an inland movement from above to gain the rear of Vicksburg. Hence we are gratified to learn that the mortar fleet has been brought into play to open a passage into the town from the front; for we believe that Porter has the men and the metal competent to do the work.

We have no very late advices from the forces of the Banks expedition, the rendezvous of which at our last accounts was Baton Rouge. We do not imagine, however, that they are idle, but that they are preparing to try the strength of the rebel defenses at Port Hudson. Those preparations may involve a vast amount of labor, including, perhaps, another "cut-off" or two, whereby the Banks expedition may pass up to the support of Grant and Porter or bring them down to a combined attack upon Port Hudson.

There has been for some days an ominous silence prevailing in regard to Charleston and Savannah. We may, however, at any moment receive the tidings that active operations have commenced against one or other of those cities. The time has arrived when every day's delay is a day lost to us, and a day gained by the enemy, in that quarter, in view of the approaching sickly season; and, as under the most favorable circumstances the capture of Charleston or Savannah must be to some extent the work of a siege, the work must very soon be commenced, or, unfinished, we may be compelled to haul off to repair damages and wait for the "first frost."

The Army of the Potomac and the Army of the Cumberland meantime are, from sheer necessity, awaiting the drying of the land and the hardening of the roads which lead them into "Dixie." With the assurances, however, that the troops of General Hooker and those of General Rosecrans are now in the best possible condition in every respect for active campaigning, we, too, may await in patience the northwest winds which are to put them in motion. With these three great land and naval expeditions, and those two great armies, commanded by and composed of tried and experienced soldiers and sailors, now in front of the enemy in Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana, we withhold all speculations and conjectures for the future except the anticipation of the most glorious results.

Granted that we have an incompetent set of officials in the War Office at Washington, and that they have committed a whole budget of blunders in their plans and combinations for this grand campaign, the issue is now out of their hands practically, with our land and naval officers, soldiers and sailors, land batteries and iron-clads in front of the enemy; and, believing that the rebellion, East and West, is thus now fairly within our grasp, we calmly await the developments of the campaign.

The Bill to Prevent and Punish Frauds Against the Government.

It appears by recent proceedings of the United States Senate that the vital provision in the bill to prevent and punish frauds against the government was out by that branch of Congress. The section to which we refer was to the effect that every person contracting to furnish supplies of any kind to the army or navy, and every person procuring or aiding to procure any claim for any such supplies, should be considered in the military or naval service, and subject to military laws and regulations. This was held to be monstrous by one, and its constitutionality was doubted by another Senator—men who had no scruple about passing monstrous and sweeping condemnation acts in direct antagonism with the spirit and the very letter of the constitution. Thus our sage legislators strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. They enunciate a bill to prevent frauds by depriving it of its most effective provision.

The necessity of such a measure is demonstrated by the report of the Van Wyck Committee, in which the most shameful and enormous frauds were exposed, and by the report of the Grimes committee, to which we lately referred, exhibiting the most extensive swindling in contracts for chartering transports for army expeditions, involving serious losses to the government, the integrity of officers in the closest relationship with it, to say nothing of the imperiling of the lives of our soldiers in rotten ships, which can only be regarded as little less than an intent to commit wholesale murder, if not treason, by giving aid and comfort to the enemy; by the Olcott report of the vast subsistence frauds in this city; and, lastly, by the immense frauds in the Custom House which have been brought to light in the report sent by Secretary Chase to Congress. Napoleon the First made short work of fraudulent contractors and quartermasters. He ordered them to be shot or hanged to the first tree. And still some examples are made, corruption, plunder and gigantic swindling operations will go on unchecked.

We hold that the War Department is responsible for the army frauds. The Secretary is accountable for the conduct of his Assistant Secretary, to whom he assigned the duty of superintending the chartering of transports. "There was nothing," says the Grimes committee, "in Mr. Tucker's antecedents to qualify him for the business of procuring vessels for the War Department, and nothing in his official position pointing to the duty of superintending the Quartermaster or any of his assistants in this important branch of the public service." Mr. Stanton is thus doubly responsible. His incompetency and incompetence are flagrant. His confidential assistant was known to the country hitherto only by his signature to the lettres de cachet by which innocent men were dragged from their homes and immured in dungeons without warrant or authority of law. Of this official the committee observe:—

All the foregoing facts and testimony point to Mr. John Tucker, late Assistant Secretary of War, as the person through whom these gigantic and shameful frauds on the government were chiefly perpetrated. Tucker was the only person in the government employ who had enjoyed a long acquaintance with Pickrel, Tucker selected Loper to "examine and recommend," and Loper brought in his old acquaintance of forty-two years' standing, Amos C. Hall. Danforth is one of Tucker's familiars. Tucker chartered all, or nearly all, the vessels for the Burnside expedition, the McClellan expedition to the peninsula, the McClellan expedition from the peninsula, and for various other enterprises.

Why has not the Secretary of War arrested Tucker, and Loper, and Hall, and Coblenz, the Jew; and Pickrel, and Belger, and Dunforth, and the rest? Has he not pleaded "the war power" as his justification in arresting and imprisoning in bastilles men who had committed no offence known to the laws? Would not "the war power" be equally valid for the arrest of the sharks and harpies who have been preying on the vitals of the country in the hour of its extremity? If the habeas corpus can be legitimately suspended in the loyal States, to what better use could its suspension be applied than to the incarceration of the swindlers of the government till they are compelled to disgorge their plunder? But we expect to see no reform in the War Department till its present Secretary is dismissed, and such a man as General McClellan placed at its head.

THE RISE IN GOLD—WHAT ARE WE FRIGHTENED ABOUT?—Gold rose yesterday to 171. In other words, one hundred and seventy-one dollars in paper money were required to purchase one hundred dollars in gold. Many people, reading this quotation on the bulletins or in the HERALD, purse up their mouths, elevate their eyebrows, shake their heads, and walk away with hearts depressed and a general feeling of gloom. "But what of it? What if gold is at 171? Wall street is not the nation by any manner of means."

If you ask any Wall street broker why gold has risen to a premium of seventy-one cents on a dollar, he will probably tell you that it is because of our depreciated currency. If he tells you that, he talks nonsense. The rise in gold does not indicate accurately the depreciation of the currency. The currency is just the same to-day as it was a week ago, when gold stood at 153. Gold has risen because Wall street has been discounting the future again. Congress may pass the Finance bill, hundreds of millions more of paper dollars may be issued, and then the currency will be awfully depreciated, says Wall street—and then up goes gold, not because the currency has depreciated, but because it may depreciate at some future period. This is speculating in specie and probabilities. Wall street seldom deals with solid facts, but generally with wishes, hopes and promises.

Who wants to buy any gold at a high premium? Very few people beyond those who buy it to sell again when it rises higher. But even these dealers in gold seldom handle the substance. They buy and sell the shadow of gold on paper. Out of the millions of gold bought and sold weekly in Wall street, not one million of dollars' worth is ever seen or owned by the seller or the purchaser. Paper takes the place of gold in these transactions as in the currency. If the United States received its custom duties in its own money, and paid the interest on its bonds in its own money, instead of in gold, there would be no demand for the precious metal except in a very few cases, where persons are obliged to send money abroad. In all ordinary transactions gold and silver are unnecessary, and the people get along very well without them. The rise in prices hurts everybody more than the rise in gold. The autocrat

tions from Wall street no longer show us what gold is really worth, but only at what price the speculating, gambling money changers are buying and selling it for their own aggrandizement.

THE SLEIGHING CARNIVAL.—The long pent up enthusiasm of our sleighing population has found ample vent during the past two days. Before this snow storm people began to believe that winter had neglected us this year. The seasons seemed to sympathize with the distracted condition of the country, and were dreadfully confused, so that we had bits of summer weather in December, and February came in smiling like spring. The beautiful snow has made all this right, however, and for two days we have had a semi-carnival on runners. The streets, avenues and Central Park have been crowded with elegant sleighs of all sorts, patterns and descriptions, and both old and young New York have been as jolly under the fur robes and behind the jingling bells as was proper during such excellent sleighing. On Monday evening, when the fireworks blazed in the parks in honor of Washington—whose patriotism all enlarge and few imitate—the scene was one of fairy land. The gorgeously varied hues of the pyrotechnics were brilliantly reflected from the dazzling surface of the snow—the clear, cold air was filled with balls of varicolored fire eclipsing the stars—the skyrockets marked their fiery paths upon the dark blue sky—the tinkling and jangling of thousands of sleighbells made most merry music, with which the voices of the gay carnivalists mingled sweetly and cheerily—sleigh after sleigh dashed past in quick succession, or paused, with half affrighted horses, among the crowds at Union square—and no stranger, visiting this metropolis for the first time, could have been induced to believe that all this splendid merriment and costly display was during the most momentous crisis of the most desperate civil war which ever troubled the world. Such is life, and such are the Americans.

BRITISH COMPLICATIONS WITH BRAZIL.—We publish in another part of this day's paper the detailed particulars of a threatened imbroglio between the British Minister at Brazil and the government of that magnificent empire. Although there has not yet been any evidence of an actual *casus belli*, it does seem that the grievances of the imperial government and the no less haughty claims of the British Minister may hereafter lead to very serious troubles and complications. According to all appearances gathered from the evidence before us, it would appear that the British Plenipotentiary in Brazil has been endeavoring to extort the acknowledgment of a manifest injustice from the Brazilian government. Now, Brazil is a weak nation, when we come to compare her with the great maritime Powers of the world. But she has a power among the nations, from her moral and material wealth, that not even England can afford to despise. It is a matter worthy of remark that the revolution in our own country has led to all the complications now existing between the European and weaker American nations. Were we not involved in a great sectional war neither England nor France would have dared to assail the rights or independence of any of the South American republics, which, properly speaking, have hitherto been under our care and protection.

In reference to this Brazilian complication, it is to be hoped that the Imperial government will maintain its rights under all circumstances. But it is possible that, being severely pressed by England, she may be unable to defend herself in the last extremity. In such a case all that the Brazilian Cabinet can do will be to comply with the unjust claims made upon it, under the solemn protest of wrong and injustice. The time will come when the united power of America may be heard and felt in vindication of the wrongs of South America. This Brazilian outrage, it appears to us, is much like the innovation of the French in Mexico. The people and the press of the South are now being awakened to the schemes and intentions of the astute Emperor who they imagine is their friend. The rebellion is now drawing to a close. Let peace be once restored to our own borders, and we shall soon see whether the Powers of Europe or the free principles of popular government in America are to rule on this continent. In the meantime we think we may safely leave Mr. Christie, the British Minister in Brazil, who has been the chief cause of all this trouble, to the tender mercies of General Webb, the American Minister to Brazil.

SPECULATORS IN THE GLORY OR SHAME OF THEIR COUNTRY.—The Wall street gamblers speculate not in gold, but in the glory and shame of their country. The gold quotations are only indications of these hidden speculations—the barometers of Wall street patriotism. The gold gamblers assure themselves and each other that we are going to have victories, and gold goes down. The next day rumors of defeat and disaster are rife on the street, having been set afloat to "bull the market," and gold goes up. If every broker in Wall street were a hopeful, earnest patriot, there would be no premium on gold, because no one would dread and predict the ruin of the nation. These Wall street speculators remind us of a party of heartless, avaricious fellows sitting at the bedside of their sick father, and laying heavy wagers with each other in regard to how long the old man will live, how many more breaths he will draw, and whether this, that or the other medicine will do him any good, by way of amusing themselves while they wait for the death, the will and the property. When old Uncle Sam recovers—as he must, by and by—how these Wall street gamblers will suffer, no matter which of them wins or loses at their present little game.

INVESTING SALE OF PAINTINGS AT THE DERRY GALLERY.—An auction sale of the pictures, studies and sketches of Mr. T. Addison Richards took place at the Derry Gallery, in Broadway, last evening, pursuant to announcement. The collection comprised a most valuable lot of splendid paintings, consisting of landscape views from nature in all parts of the Union, and a choice variety of fruit, flower and other subjects. The attendance of patrons of the fine arts was quite numerous; but the bidding rarely seemed to rise above the value of many of the pictures. The catalogue contained a description of one hundred and forty-one different paintings, including a beautiful view of the Central Park, and a group of twenty-one views—Lake of the Pinnacles, Swamp, Sunset on the Susquehanna, Evening on the Delaware, Moon light on the Adirondacks, the Deserted Bridge in the Valley of Wyoming, Penn., and a pretty cottage scene near Lancaster, Pa. Mr. H. H. Leeds was the auctioneer, and exercised his best talents to make the paintings bring something like their value.

MR. O'BRIEN'S LECTURE ON IRELAND.—The lecture delivered at Clinton Hall last night, on "The Ireland of '48 and '49 and the Ireland of Today," by Mr. Wm. O'Brien, late of the Dublin press, was attended by a large audience and produced a manifest effect. The subject was intelligently handled by the lecturer and the applause was very hearty.

ARRIVALS FROM HAVANA.

The steamship Pacific, Captain Emberton, from Havana, arrived at this port yesterday morning, with dates to the 17th inst. She had very heavy weather and had sea from Havana.

We are indebted to Mr. G. A. Fuller, the indefatigable purser of the Pacific, for the prompt delivery of our files, and for his unfeigned kindness and attention.

The steamer Shellkrake, for New York, would leave on the 21st inst.

The rebel steamer Alce, formerly the Matagorda, arrived at Havana on the morning of the 17th inst. from Mobile, with 850 bales of cotton. She left Mobile on Saturday night, 14th inst., and made the run in sixty hours, not having seen any American vessels on her passage.

Havana was very gay. The carnival season commenced on the 16th inst. The health of Havana was very good. The gumbat of the city had just arrived from a cruise. The Columbia had not arrived.

Our Havana Correspondence.

Havana, Feb. 17, 1863.

The Carnival and its Amusements.—The New York Works of Havana—Arrival of a Steamer from Mobile, &c.

We are in the midst of the carnival. *Le régal*—that is, the people—Venez. Masks everywhere, on foot, on horseback and in carriages, singing, dancing, showing beans and making the most of the season. This mode of amusing oneself is silly or excellent, just as it may happen to suit the person's own fancy and that of his neighbors; for that is the philosophy of the affair. A man's mind is his kingdom. The Tacon is crowded every night by those who go to a masked ball, as it is called. The masked ball at the Tacon consists of a crowd of women in disguise, who rush round among the men, whose programme appears to be to keep their hats on and smoke, while here and there a small party may be seen going through the peculiar movements known as a Cuban dance. The heat, the dust, the dirt, the smell and the noise are intolerable to any one who has not disguised himself in some slight refractory means to making his appearance in the ballroom, or who is not fascinated by some pretty mask. One of the most extraordinary features of the affair is the band. The colored gentlemen, who perform the part of musical attendants on Terpsichore are wonderful in their powers of endurance. I watched the first violin with a beating heart, and that of his neighbors, expecting every moment to see him drop from the floor from exhaustion or apoplexy. "Ole Virginny never tire!" For three months he has been playing the same tune, much more so than any other person's energy, de-light—away backward and forward, with shirt open, eyes fixed on the sympathizing ceiling, and utterly regardless of persons and the surrounding scene. Trombones was quite the reverse of this picture; yet, as he had a rest of a few seconds about every two minutes, it was evident that there was no use in his getting tired, when his reverie was sure to be interrupted by the exigencies of the music. This bill, which must be understood, is confined to the carnival, and not to the city, and class a little below the demi-monde, is kept up until five o'clock in the morning of each of the three days of the carnival. Taken together, the carnival in Havana is better than nothing, and serves as a change from the usual dull monotony of the three hundred and sixty-two days which make up the remainder of the year. I therefore am personally thankful.

The steamer Pacific leaves to-day for New York, and I have little or nothing to give you in the shape of news.

The great undertaking of supplying the city with good water, inaugurated with such pomp and circumstance in 1858, has "dragged its slow length" so very slowly that many have begun to doubt if it will ever be accomplished. The *Diario de la Marina* has published two or three articles on the matter, in the hope of saving the chief engineer of the work from anything like the odium which might probably be laid upon him if he were to give up the work as elsewhere, are very suspicious and intolerant of swindling humbugs.

The tearing down of the city wall is again spoken of in the most positive manner. Certain it is that the municipal authorities have formally petitioned the government for permission. It would be a grand thing, if the old wall stood, and put good sewers and pavement in the streets.

Theatricals.

"SATANELLA" AT NELLO'S GARDEN.

Mr. Peter Richings' spectacular adaptation of Balfe's opera, "Satanella," was produced at Nello's Garden Monday evening. We have only time and space to say that the piece was an immense success. Miss Richings' singing was as brilliant as ever. The ballet troupe, led by G. and H. Harzetti, was extremely enjoyable. The scenery, by Mr. Richings, Mr. and Mrs. Shewell, Messieurs Chantreau and Sherrett, and Messrs. Lamb and de Forest, was all that the most fastidious could desire. Mr. Hays and Selwyn, who have never been surpassed in this theatre for splendor and artistic taste. The applause was frequent and loud, and it would be difficult to find a more successful and successful adaptation of the "Kochentrommel" was in the same hands a few months ago.

MARY PROVOST AT THE WINTER GARDEN.

Miss Mary Provost made her first appearance in New York this season, at Winter Garden, Monday evening. The play was "Ingomar," Miss Provost acting the character of Partibena. We reserve our comments upon this performance until another occasion, when we will be able to give a more full and appreciative notice. Miss Provost received her imperious Partibena last evening, and appears to-night in Charles Rende and Tom Taylor's beautiful comedy of "Nell Gwynne." Miss Provost is a very charming, witty and popular actress, and Nell Gwynne is one of her best characters.

MISS GANNON'S BENEFIT AT WALLACE'S.

Wallace's elegant theatre was jammed last evening for the benefit of Miss Mary Gannon, who amply deserves the general appreciation and applause which she always receives. The programme was a very little French drama, "